

Message Text

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14

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-03 HEW-02 AGR-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 COME-00 STR-04 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 /054 W

----- 047316

O R 120830Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4114

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 1567

PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP, EPAP, SWEL, PK

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ANTHRAX SPORES IN PAKISTANI WOOL
PRODUCTS

BEGIN SUMMARY. CINCPAC REPORTS THAT US PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE HAS IMPOUNDED WOOLEN PRODUCTS FROM PAKISTAN BECAUSE OF EVIDENCE IN THEM OF ANTHRAX SPORES. SINCE PAKISTAN EARNS ABOUT \$5 MILLION PER ANNUM FROM CARPET EXPORTS TO US, GOP AGRICULTURAL MINISTRY OFFICIAL HERE IS CONCERNED OVER IMPLICATIONS OF ABOVE ACTION. HE REQUESTS SPECIFIC INFORMATION TO HELP AUTHORITIES HERE TRACK DOWN PROBLEM. END SUMMARY

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

1. FOLLOWING IS MESSAGE 10034Z FEB 76 FROM
CINCPAC, HONOLULU TO EMBASSY.

BEGIN QUOTE: US PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE HAS IMPOUNDED
ANIMAL HAIR (CATTLE, SHEEP, CAMEL) PRODUCTS FOR ANTHRAX
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BACILLUS SPORE CONTAMINATION. KNOWN SOURCE OF PRODUCTS

IS SARFRAZ BROTHERS, LAHORE, PAKISTAN. ON CINCPAC'S OCTOBER VISIT TO PAKISTAN SEVERAL WOOL RUGS WERE PURCHASED BY MEMBERS OF PARTY IN ISLAMABAD, MUREE AND RAWALPINDI. CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL, ATLANTA, GA, CALLS ANTHRAX SPORE UBIQUITOUS TO LAHORE. NOT TO BE ALARMIST -- ONLY SAFE -- REQUEST YOUR ASSESSMENT OF POSSIBLE ANTHRAX CONTAMINATION FOR WOOL RUGS PURCHASED AT ABOVE NAMED CITIES. APPRECIATE YOUR HELP. END QUOTE

END CONFIDENTIAL

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

2. SIMILAR ITEM MENTIONED IN USIA WIRELESS FILE NO. 28 FOR FEBRUARY 10 IN NESA 16. BEGIN QUOTE: NEW YORK TIMES, FROM METROPOLITAN BRIEFS. FULL TEXT. ABOUT 300 POUNDS OF POSSIBLE TAINTED PAKISTANI YARNS HAVE BEEN TURNED IN TO THE CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT IN THE LAST FEW DAYS AND WILL BE BURNED. THE ACTION BY CITY RESIDENTS WAS TAKEN AS A RESULT OF A WARNING BY THE DEPARTMENT LAST WEEK THAT YARN PRODUCTS MADE BY TAHKA - PRODUCTS LTD., WITH OFFICES IN TEANECK, N.J. WERE SUSPECTED OF CAUSING ANTHRAX. END QUOTE.

3. EMBASSY AGATT DISCUSSED ABOVE REPORTS WITH THE MIN. AG LIVESTOCK OFFICIAL WHO CLAIMS NO SPECIAL ANTHRAX PROBLEMS IN LAHORE AREA. SAYS THIS DISEASE ENDEMIC TO PAKISTAN AS TO MOST OF THE WORLD BUT THAT IT IS NOT MAJOR PROBLEM HERE. SPORADIC OUTBREAKS WHEN THEY HAPPEN GENERALLY OCCUR IN SHEEP LIVING IN NARROW VALLEYS OF BALUCHISTAN PROVINCE. OFFICIAL DOES CONCEDE THAT WOOL FROM THIS AREA MAY BE USED IN RUGS OR YARN WHICH MAY BE SOLD AND USED ANYWHERE IN COUNTRY. CURRENT GOP EXPORT PROCEDURES DO NOT CALL FOR SANITARY INSPECTIONS MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS.

4. THIS OFFICIAL FULLY UNDERSTANDS ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS ANY U.S. OR THIRD COUNTRY BAN MIGHT HAVE ON EXPORTS OF WOOLEN PRODUCTS (PAKISTAN EARNS \$55-60 MILLION PER YEAR FROM CARPET EXPORTS OF WHICH ABOUT \$5 MILLION CAME

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FROM U.S.). HE HAS URGENTLY REQUESTED DETAILS ON SPECIFIC PRODUCTS IN WHICH ANTHRAX SPORES FOUND PLUS SPECIFIC SUPPLIERS, DATES OF PURCHASES, ETC.

5. FOR DEPARTMENT: EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPARTMENT SUPPLY THIS INFORMATION URGENTLY.

6. FOR CINCPAC: PLEASE INFORM US DETAILS SARFRAZ

BROTHERS CASE MENTIONED YOUR MESSAGE.
LUPPI

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